

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated June 20, 2005. Claims 1 to 18 are pending in the application, of which Claims 1 and 15 to 18 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 1 to 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,003,065 (Yan). Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

The present invention concerns downloading a processing program for execution of image processing to a peripheral device which does not have a function for processing the image. A selection is made of a preferred peripheral device from among a plurality of peripheral devices to perform the image processing. Preference for the selection may be based on the performance of the peripheral in executing the image processing using the downloaded processing program. Thus, a peripheral device, which is preferred to execute the processing program, can always be selected based on image processing performance using the downloaded program.

Turning to specific claim language, amended independent Claim 1 is directed to an image processing system having plural devices, including a device capable of executing predetermined image processing, interconnected via a serial bus, wherein a processing program for execution of the image processing is downloaded from the device capable of executing predetermined image processing to a device, which does not have a function of executing the image processing, among the plural devices. The processing performance information indicating performance of executing the image processing based on the downloaded processing program is obtained from each of the plural devices, and an executing device to execute the image

processing is determined from the plural devices based on the processing performance information.

In contrast, Yan discloses a technique for selecting a peripheral device using a peripheral database 110 (of Fig. 1) for storing a profile of the capabilities for each of one or more peripheral devices coupled to a network. In operation, an application uses a predetermined selection criteria to query the peripheral database 110 and determine which peripheral device is best suited for performing the desired peripheral operation. (See Fig. 3 and Fig 4). The system of Yan differs from the present invention for at least the reason that, in Yan, the profile of the peripheral must be stored in the peripheral database before the profile can be accessed and used for selection purposes. As a result, a system in accordance with the disclosures of Yan will fail to select the most preferred device if the device is not yet registered in the peripheral database. However, in the present invention as claimed in Claim 1, processing performance information indicating performance of executing said image processing based on the downloaded processing program is obtained from each of said plural devices. Therefore, a most preferred device may always be found as there is no reliance on a centralized peripheral database which may be incomplete regarding a profile of the most preferred device.

In light of the deficiencies of Yan as discussed above, Applicant submits that amended independent Claim 1 is now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same.

Amended independent Claims 15 and 18 are directed to a method and an recording medium, respectively, substantially in accordance with the system of Claim 1.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claims 15 and 18 are also now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same.

Amended independent Claims 16 and 17 are directed to apparatuses substantially in accordance with the system of Claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claims 16 and 17 are also now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same.

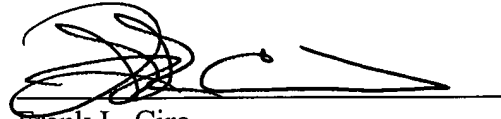
The other claims in this application are each dependent from one of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed allowable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the allowability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

On another matter, an Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) was filed in the subject case on November 28, 2001. To date, Applicant's undersigned attorney has not received acknowledgment that the U.S. applications listed therein have been considered and made formally of record. Accordingly, the Examiner is requested to indicate that this information has been considered by initialing and returning the enclosed copy of the IDS of November 28, 2001.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, CA office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Frank L. Cire', is written over a horizontal line.

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